



Muzzle Training



The best and most humane muzzle on the market is a BASETVILLE muzzle

Your dog must associate the Muzzle with something good happening, e.g. a primary reinforcer like food, a doggie treat, or praise.

If your dog is very wary of the muzzle put it next to his feed bowl until your dog does not worry about it being there. This is called 'desensitization'.

Start by placing very a tasty food reward in the stand of the muzzle (the part where your dog puts its nose) so that it acts as a bowl. When your dog takes the food reward give him lots of verbal praise. "Good Boy"; "Good job".

When your dog is happy to take food from muzzle, take the muzzle in your hand and entice your dog to put its nose into the muzzle by poking the food reward through the stand. When your dog takes the food reward he will withdraw his head, DO NOT force his head into the stand.

Eventually it should be possible to feed treats to your dog through the stand of the muzzle, when he is doing this with no signs of anxiety or nervousness, gently start to lift into place the straps around his ears. If the dog withdraws allow him to do this.

When he allows you to fasten the muzzle, continue to feed treats to him through the stand of the muzzle.

The muzzle should then be put on when he is at rest so that he does not associate the muzzle exclusively with exercise. IMPORTANTLY, if you have a problem at any stage of the training, go back to the last successful point and start again. Do not force this piece of equipment onto your dog, as he will associate fear rather than positive rewards with the muzzle. He should associate the muzzle with something good happening to him.

If you have any questions please contact WELLBEHAVE.